Setting up of Rural Centres of Excellence

1350. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a view to providing the benefits of scientific research and technological advancement for agricultural and rural development, Government have decided to set up a number of Rural Centre of Excellence in the country.

(b) if so, the number and details of such centres so far set up or recognised; and

(c) the precise details of their functions and their *modus operandi*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Support price for rabi crops

1351. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the support prices for rabi corps; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) The minimum support prices for 1991-92 Rabi crops have been fixed at much higher levels as compared to those fixed for the previous season. There is no proposal to further increase the support prices as these cover cost of production and also provide a reasonable margin of profit to the producer.

Agricultural Research Projects with US Collaboration

1352. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Agricultural Research Project under the Indo-US Collaboration;

(b) what is total cost of each project;

(c) what is the contribution of US in these projects; and

(d) the time limit for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Sir, The Agricultural Research Project has been taken up with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development with the object of increasing agricultural productivity, income and employment through transfer of technical knowledge and mutual collaboration. The research areas covered under the project include Soybean, Post-harvest Technology, embryo transfer Agroforestry etc.

(b) and (c) A Statement indicating the names of the sub-projects sanctioned under Agricultural Research Project and the contribution of USAID against each sub-project, is enclosed. (*See below*).

(d) The Agricultural Research Project is terminating on 30th June, 1992.